

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application.

Please amend claims 1, 3-4, and 10 and please add new claim 23 to read as follows.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for isolating disseminated tumor cells from a cell-containing body fluid, comprising passing a cell-containing body fluid or part thereof that comprises a disseminated tumor cell through a screen having a mesh or pore width of about 15 to 30 μm to separate non-cancer cells from disseminated tumor cells, wherein the disseminated tumor cells are retained on the screen and are free from a separating agent that comprises a ligand for isolation, and wherein the body fluid is selected from the group consisting of blood and bone marrow.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to either claim 1 or claim 3, wherein the screen has a mesh or pore width of about 20 μm .

3. (Currently Amended) A method for isolating disseminated tumor cells from a cell-containing body fluid, comprising separating cellular components from non-cellular components in a body fluid that comprises a disseminated tumor cell to obtain a cell-containing fraction; resuspending the cell-containing fraction in a suspension medium; and passing the resuspended cell-containing fraction through a screen having a mesh or pore width of about 15 to 30 μm to separate non-cancer cells from disseminated tumor cells, wherein the disseminated tumor cells are retained on the screen and are free from a separating agent that comprises a ligand for isolation, and wherein the body fluid is selected from the group consisting of blood and bone marrow.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any one of claims 1-3~~either claim 1 or claim 3, comprising removing from the screen the retained disseminated tumor cells.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein removing the retained disseminated tumor cells comprises passing a liquid through the screen in a direction opposite to that in which the body fluid or part thereof or resuspended cell-containing fraction is passed, to obtain a cell-containing wash liquid.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to either claim 1 or claim 3, wherein the body fluid is blood.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to either claim 1 or claim 3, wherein the body fluid is bone marrow.

8. – 9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The use of a screen having a mesh or pore width of about 15 to 30 μm for isolating disseminated tumor cells from a cell-containing body fluid, wherein said disseminated tumor cells are free from a separating agent that comprises a ligand for isolation, wherein the body fluid is selected from the group consisting of blood and bone marrow.

11. – 21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the cell-containing fraction is isolated by subjecting the body fluid to density gradient centrifugation.

23. (New) The method according to any one of claims 1, 3, and 10 wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of an antibody or a lectin.